

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An image recognition apparatus for preventing counterfeiting of bank notes and valuable securities, comprising:

means for writing external dictionary data into a storage portion of a volatile memory; and

a recognition processing portion which carries out a recognition process on supplied image data using said dictionary data stored in [[a]] said storage portion of said volatile memory to determine whether or not said supplied image matches said dictionary data~~[[; and]]~~.

~~means for writing said dictionary data into said storage portion;~~
wherein said dictionary data stored in said storage portion is erased from said volatile memory at least at the time when the power is not on and said dictionary data is provided from an external source to said image recognition apparatus, ~~and said storage portion does not include a non-volatile memory for storing said dictionary data.~~

2. (Currently amended) The image recognition apparatus of Claim 1, ~~wherein said storage portion is constructed from a volatile memory, and~~ wherein the erasing of said dictionary data is carried out automatically in accordance with the cutting off of the power supply.

3. (Previously Presented) An image recognition apparatus for preventing counterfeiting of bank notes and valuable securities, comprising:

a recognition processing portion which carries out a recognition process on supplied image data using dictionary data stored in a storage portion to determine whether or not said supplied image matches said dictionary data; and

means for writing said dictionary data into said storage portion;

wherein said storage portion is constructed from a rewriteable memory, and further comprising means for actively rewriting said dictionary data stored in said storage portion in response to a termination signal.

4. (Previously Presented) The image recognition apparatus of any one of Claim 1 through Claim 3, further comprising means for monitoring the connection status of said storage portion.

5. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

an image recognition apparatus comprising:

means for writing external dictionary data into a storage portion of a memory; and

a recognition processing portion which carries out a recognition process on supplied image data using said dictionary data stored in [[a]] said storage portion of said memory to determine whether or not said supplied image matches said dictionary data_{[[; and]]}.

~~means for writing said dictionary data into said storage portion;~~

wherein said dictionary data stored in said storage portion is erased from said memory at least at the time when the power is not on and said dictionary data is provided by an external source to said image recognition apparatus ~~and said storage portion does not include a non-volatile memory for storing said dictionary data;~~ and

means for performing a copy-prohibiting process when a determination of a copy-prohibited object is made based on an output from said image recognition apparatus.

6. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said storage portion is constructed from a volatile memory, and wherein the erasing of said dictionary data is carried out automatically in accordance with the cutting off of the power supply.

7. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

an image recognition apparatus comprising:

a recognition processing portion which carries out a recognition process on supplied image data using dictionary data stored in a storage portion to determine whether or not said supplied image matches said dictionary data; and

means for writing said dictionary data into said storage portion;

wherein said storage portion is constructed from a rewriteable memory, and further comprising means for actively rewriting said dictionary data stored in said storage portion in response to a termination signal; and

means for performing a copy-prohibiting process when a determination of a copy-prohibited object is made based on an output from said image recognition apparatus.

Claim 8. (Canceled).